

invidious to particularise; but the writer knows how valuable and indispensable were the services of the local Secretary, John Simpson, Esq., who in the most praiseworthy manner zealously devoted himself, without any kind of compensation, to the necessarily arduous work of his office.

We must not omit to observe that the large and handsome British Flag, which so proudly waved in the breeze from the centre of the Show ground, was a present to the Society from an American citizen, Mr. E. Coulson Williams of Rochester, N. Y., who brought over a number of tents and marquees of his own manufacture, and who received a diploma for their superior excellence. Mr. Williams was very properly elected an honorary life member of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada; and we trust that his handsome present will remain for many a long day, a memento of the mutual friendship and good will which should ever characterise a people who can proudly boast of possessing a common origin and language, and now forming the two greatest nations upon earth.

ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

*To the Members of the Agricultural Association of
Upper Canada.*

GENTLEMEN:

Owing the unexpected death of John Wetenhall, Esq., the President of the Association for the year 1850, the duties of that office have devolved upon me, the First Vice President of the Association.

By the lamented death of Mr. Wetenhall, the Association has been deprived of the services of one of its most zealous supporters; his being removed from this world in the prime of life, makes the calamity more distressing to his bereaved widow and family, and ail that can now be done is to mingle our sorrow with his family and friends in deploring his early loss, and their irreparable bereavement.

At former annual meetings the Presidents in each year have prepared and delivered valuable and useful addresses to the members of the Association; in following up that practice, the difficulty will be in selecting sufficient matter upon Agricultural subjects that has not previously been mentioned and fully explained by former writers, but in so inexhaustible and comprehensive a field as the history, science and art of Agriculture, something can always be selected that may not prove uninteresting to the inhabitants of this growing country; therefore, on so universal a subject as must ever pertain to Agricultural pursuits, we may take up for the information of our farming community some parts of ancient history to show that the cultivation of the soil has been coeval with the existence of the

human race, and among the ancients the occupation of the cultivators of the soil and the shepherd have been practised by the most noble and honorable.

The Egyptians in the days King Pharaoh must have attained considerable knowledge in the cultivation of grain, and from that time all along to the reign of King Solomon the Art of Agriculture must have been progressively improving to a great extent, otherwise that monarch could not order supplies of fine flour, meal and barley sufficient for his extensive household, and for the great number of artisans and workmen employed by him and the King of Tyre in framing and bringing down timber from Mount Lebanon, and floating it along the sea coast to Joppa, for the purpose of building the Holy Temple at Jerusalem.

Moreover, without again referring to Holy Writ, we are informed by Josephus, the Jewish historian, in his book 8th, that at a great feast given by King Solomon to the Hebrew nation on finishing the Temple, twenty two thousand oxen and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep were provided for the occasion. The same historian states in the 13th chapter of said book, that Elisha, when called to fill his holy office, was ploughing with 12 yoke of oxen. From these passages we may infer that Oxen were then in very general use in the cultivation of the soil, and that driving them and working with them was considered an honorable employment, practised by the most respectable men of the times herein mentioned.

When the Roman Empire was in its full glory and prosperity the arts and sciences flourished in a very eminent degree; Agriculture, amongst the other arts, was carried to great perfection: but upon the dissolution of that vast empire, agriculture also declined, and we have no very perfect history of the progress of this art in England until the 16th century, when Fitzherbert, Judge of Common Pleas, studied the nature of soils, and the laws of vegetation, with philosophical attention. Afterwards Sir Hugh Platt wrote upon the same subject, also, Messrs. Evelyn and Tull, natives of England, put forth valuable works on Agriculture, and later Sir John Sinclair's code of Agriculture has done much in improving the art in the kingdom of Great Britain; but above all, the Board of Agriculture established in England through the instrumentality of the last named distinguished patriot in the year 1791, has done more to bring the science of agriculture under a system of progressive improvement than any other measure.

In naming the celebrated men, who by their labors have been great benefactors to the public, it is not intended to take from the merits of numerous others in England and other countries who have labored in the same useful field; among whom we may justly mention the late Judge Buell, a citizen of the United States of America, resident in the State of New York, who it is believed has done more by his writing and example to increase the knowledge of agriculture amongst